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NOTES

THE PUBLIC
LIBRARIES
AND ART

Some time ago the American Federation of Arts sent out a circular to five hundred public libraries in all parts of the country asking the following questions: Have you an exhibition gallery? Do you hold exhibitions? How many in the past year? Of what character? Have you an Art Department? How many Art Magazines do you take? How many art books have you? Do you list art books separately? Do you publish a bulletin? What other efforts, if any, do you make to advance interest in art? These were sent only to libraries owning their own buildings. Within four weeks one hundred and twenty-six responded. Of these 66 had no galleries and held no exhibitions, 34 had no galleries but held exhibitions, utilizing other rooms for the purpose; and 26 had galleries specially designed and held exhibitions. The last group was widely distributed, through twelve States, namely, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Michigan, Indiana, Washington State, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Nebraska. Some had held as many as nineteen exhibitions in the past year, some but one or two. The character of the exhibitions varied greatly from original work in oil, water color and pastels, to etchings, engravings, photographs and prints. The majority were of reproductions, but of merit. In several instances it was noted that through the initiative of the library an art association had been formed and that a movement had been started toward the establishment of a Museum of Art. A surprising number of art magazines and art books were noted. The Boston Library in these statistics led, reporting 78 magazines and 21,000 volumes on art. The small libraries in the mid-west and on the Pacific coast, however, also made an excellent showing. The other means employed by libraries to advance interest in art were lectures, chalk talks for children, circulating collections of pictures and hospitality to art clubs. Quite

a number of the libraries have large collections of stereopticon slides which they lend to art clubs and schools throughout their State. The Riverside Library in California alternates chalk talks for the children with story-telling, thus giving the "little citizens" early acquaintance with the great masters and their works. This is a healthy, vigorous movement, which is bound to cultivate more intelligent appreciation of art. It is essentially democratic and far-reaching.

THE DECORA-
TION OF NOR-
WALK'S HIGH
SCHOOL

Two years ago a new High School building was erected in Norwalk, Connecticut. The decoration of this building, for which no appropriation was available, was undertaken by a special committee and has been carried out with exceptional success. Immediately upon the organization of the committee an appeal was sent by letter to well-to-do citizens, who gave gifts in money for the purchase of pictures to which their names were attached, the gifts being acknowledged in the daily newspapers. The next move was an appeal to the various organizations, each being invited to make a contribution which would be properly representative. A similar invitation was given to the trades, professions, business and fraternal organizations, as well as to the various municipal bodies. And almost without exception generous response was made. A Grand Army Post, a chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Knights of Columbus, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a group of lawyers, some physicians, the Norwalk Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, an Italian Society, and many others have made typical gifts. Everyone, indeed, has taken an interest, and the common salutation on the street has been, it is said, "Have you given anything to the High School yet?" The effect has been beneficial both in increasing interest in the High School and accomplishing its decoration. This shows what enthusiasm and community spirit can accomplish.